

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary "Stolen Honor", days before the Nov. election is an example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is the same Sinclair that in April forbade its ABC stations from running the Nightline episode devoted to the soldiers killed in Iraq, and runs a daily commentary section which labels antiwar Congressmen as "unpatriotic politicians who hate our military". Will they force their stations to also air Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 911? Silly question. Sinclair has a political agenda.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. It is important that we see news from our own communities about issues that matter. The anti-Kerry propaganda film is not "news content". This is a blatant attempt to influence public opinion through distortion. Federal election law prohibits public corporations from showing "electioneering communication" 60 days before an election.

Sinclair has over 60 stations which reportedly cover 25% of the national TV audience. Excessive media consolidation is a threat to fair and balanced news coverage. Media ownership rules need to be strengthened. Thank you.